

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0279

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR EG IS US

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF ISRAELI NON-RESPONSE TO

- AMERICAN QUESTIONS

SUMMARY. ISRAELI CABINET NON-RESPONSE TO U.S. QUESTIONS CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN PRESS AND ADDS TO EGYPTIAN PESSIMISM ABOUT ISRAELI "STALLING" AND "LACK OF SINCERITY". DIFFERENCES AMONG ISRAELI MINISTERS ALSO PLAYED UP TOGETHER WITH LONDON REPORT OF BEGIN'S POOR HEALTH. FERMENT AND BAD NEWS OUT OF ISRAEL CONTINUING TO BE USED (AND EXAGGERATED) APPARENTLY TO ASSURE PUBLIC ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE WILL SOON BE OVERCOME. END SUMMARY.

1. AHRAM JUNE 13 CARRIES NEWS AGENCIES' REPORT THAT ISRAELI CABINET DID NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON ANSWERS TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS REGARDING FUTURE OF WEST BANK AND

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GAZA AND ISRAEL'S "VISUALIZATION OF HOW PALESTINIANS COULD PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE". "INFORMED SOURCES" CONFIRMED THAT GOI COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT BECAUSE "LARGE NUMBER OF MINISTERS", INCLUDING DAYAN AND WEIZMAN, DID NOT AGREE WITH BEGIN PROPOSAL.

2. DAYAN'S AND WEIZMAN'S DISAGREEMENT WITH BEGIN PLAN

WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN AHRAM'S LEAD. WEIZMAN PORTRAYED AS HAVING PRESENTED PROPOSAL DURING MEETING BASED ON NECESSITY AND IMPORTANCE OF RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT. ALSO HIGHLIGHTED WAS CONCERN IN ISRAEL THAT U.S. MAY IMPOSE EMBARGO ON ARMS SHIPMENTS FOR "12 OR 18 MONTHS".

3. BEGIN'S HEALTH. AHRAM ALSO CARRIED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE BASED ON LONDON "EVENING NEWS" ACCOUNT, THAT

BEGIN IS SERIOUSLY ILL AND "HE MAY NOT REMAIN IN HIS OFFICE". ACCORDING TO LONDON PAPER, PEOPLE WHO MET BEGIN IN KNESSET LAST WEEK THOUGHT THEY WERE "SHAKING HAND OF DEAD MAN". LATER IN STORY THERE MENTION THAT BEGIN SUFFERS FROM DEPRESSIONS (AMONG OTHER THINGS) AND THAT THESE BECAME DEEP AFTER BEGIN'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER LAST MARCH.

4. FAILURE ISRAELI CABINET RESPOND TO QUESTIONS HAVE DISTURBED EGYPTIANS AND GENERATED FURTHER PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS TO EMBOFFS OF PESSIMISM ABOUT ISRAELI "STALING" AND LACK OF SINCERITY.

5. COMMENT: MEDIA CONTINUING TO CONCENTRATE (AND EXAGGERATE) DIFFERENCES WITHIN GOI AND SUCH BAD NEWS AS BEGIN'S STATE OF HEALTH APPARENTLY TO ASSURE PUBLIC THAT ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE" WILL SOON BE OVERCOME. EILTS

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